

## Chapter 13: Tribal Enforcement

### Section 13.020: Processing and Distributing Tribal TANF Child Support Payments

This section describes how to appropriately apply tribal TANF child support payments to cases.

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#### CONTENTS

Laws	<a href="#">42 USC 612</a> tribal TANF <a href="#">42 USC 654</a> cooperative child support agreements <a href="#">WAC 388-14A-5000 - 5100</a> allows DCS to distribute support money to a tribe with TANF program or <a href="#">cooperative agreements</a> <a href="#">RCW 26.23.035</a> distribution of support payments <a href="#">Chapter 26.25 RCW</a> encourages DCS and tribes to enter into cooperative child support agreements
Policy	Distribute child support money to an Indian tribe with a TANF program or a state/tribal cooperative child support agreement.
Procedure	Process suspense payments once we have received the tribal TANF assignment. Send a notice to the CP of our intent to distribute to the tribe.  Apply IRS payments to state TANF subro first.  Use the algorithm to apply payments on tribal TANF cases.  Notify the DCS state office EFT Unit of the D# of the tribal TANF case, if the tribe wants payments made by an EFT.
Visual Aids	<a href="#">Tribal Relations</a> Internet site <a href="#">SEMS Web TI</a> - Tribal Information
Automated Actions	
SEMS Screens	<a href="#">CF</a> , <a href="#">AV</a> , <a href="#">SI</a>
Forms Used	<a href="#">09-875</a>
Hearing and Conference Board Rights	Refer all requests to the Regional Tribal Liaison or Tribal Claims Officer.
See Also	

## PROCEDURES

- A. When can DCS distribute child support money to a tribe?**
1. Under federal and state law, DCS can distribute child support money to an Indian tribe with a TANF program or a state/tribal cooperative agreement.
- B. How does DCS send payments to a tribe?**
1. Distribute child support payments to tribes using Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). After setting up the tribal TANF case, immediately send an e-mail message to **DCSCASH** at DCS Headquarters.
  2. Include the D# of the case and that it relates to tribal EFT to ensure proper routing to the EFT Unit.
- C. What if there is a payment in suspense on a tribal TANF case?**
1. Ensure DCS has received a copy of the tribal TANF assignment of support, or that an automatic assignment exists by operation of tribal law.
    - a. If you do not have the assignment, contact the Tribal Liaison who will request it from the tribe.
  2. Verify that a state/tribal child support agreement exists.
    - a. If an agreement does not exist, send the **Letter of Intent to Distribute Support Money - Tribal**, DSHS 09-875 to the CP.
    - b. Send a copy of the 09-875 to the tribe.
  3. Open a new tribal TANF case for each NCP and set CF. See Section 13.015.
  4. Use the Adjustment Voucher (**AV**) to process payments in suspense.
  5. Remove **SI**.
- D. How does DCS distribute support when there's a tribal TANF case?**
1. When SEMS or an SEO distributes payments between Washington State cases and tribal TANF cases, the normal algorithm applies.